

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Eugene DOCHERTY

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is Eugene Docherty. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1959. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I lived in [REDACTED], Garnethill, Glasgow with my mum [REDACTED], my dad [REDACTED], [REDACTED]



3. My dad was an alcoholic. [REDACTED]. He had worked in a whisky distillery, that's probably where his alcoholism stemmed from. My mum had a breakdown and left the family home when I was ten years old. My mum went to stay at her sister's house in Dollar. Mum sent [REDACTED] to Glasgow with Christmas presents for [REDACTED], [REDACTED] never got the presents, my dad either gave them away or pawned them. We moved house a lot. Dad was not working and was not paying the rent.
4. My dad was out all day. He locked [REDACTED] out of the house. I was looking after [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I were out walking the streets of Glasgow until night

time. There was no food at home and [REDACTED] always hungry. [REDACTED] ate fruit that had been thrown out into the alleyways off Sauchiehall Street. At night [REDACTED] slept in a cupboard on a mattress. [REDACTED] would often wake up to find strangers in the house, women that my father had brought home. [REDACTED] existence was like a Dickens novel, [REDACTED] had holes in [REDACTED] shoes.

5. My father would come back home drunk. [REDACTED]. The Police were called a few times and took my father away [REDACTED] sent away overnight. [REDACTED] I [REDACTED] sent to a borstal called Larchgrove. It was somewhere in Glasgow. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. It was a shock. I said to [REDACTED] not to talk to anyone. [REDACTED] had to share a room with other people. I don't think [REDACTED] slept all night. The other children at Larchgrove were teenagers. I don't think it was the right place to send [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] would rather have been kept in the police station.
6. One Saturday, my dad said we were [REDACTED] going out. He took [REDACTED] to the John Street Social Work Office and asked them to take [REDACTED]. Dad took [REDACTED] for breakfast and back to John Street. Then [REDACTED] I [REDACTED] taken in a taxi to Mossbank Children's Home at Steps.

Mossbank Children's Home, Steps, Near Glasgow

7. I went to Mossbank when I was ten or eleven years old. [REDACTED] crying on the journey to Mossbank. [REDACTED] didn't have a clue what was happening. [REDACTED] hadn't been spoken to by a social worker before [REDACTED] left for Mossbank. A social worker visited [REDACTED] later on.
8. Mossbank was an old Victorian house situated in its own grounds. It was small and housed about 20 or 25 children. [REDACTED] When [REDACTED] arrived, the first thing the staff did, was to give [REDACTED] food. They were nice people. [REDACTED] had a shower or a bath. [REDACTED] were given pyjamas, a tartan dressing gown and day clothes. The staff probably burned the clothes [REDACTED] had.

9. The girls and boys had separate dormitories. There were six children in a dormitory. I was in a dormitory with [REDACTED]. The children were all of a similar age, a couple were a few years older than me. Mossbank was really nice. [REDACTED] stayed there for six or seven months.

Routine at Mossbank Children's Home

10. In the morning, we got up at 8:00 am. The staff woke you up. They were all female and they were nice. We had breakfast. We played outside in the grounds and then had lunch.
11. The food was the usual things, like mince and potatoes. The food was better than what [REDACTED] had had before going into care. We ate together in a small dining room. It was good.
12. In the evenings, we could watch television or go to the games room. The staff took us out on walks and once we went to Kelvin Hall to see a show. We had no personal possessions.
13. There was no discipline or punishment at Mossbank. Everyone got on and there was no need for it. It was just nice.
14. I think my dad visited [REDACTED]. My mum sent sweets to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had two social workers, Mrs Currie and Mrs Bell. They visited [REDACTED] about once a month. Looking back, they were probably young trainee social workers. They didn't do anything. They just asked whether it was nice at Mossbank and whether [REDACTED] having a good time. [REDACTED] spoke to the social workers without any staff from Mossbank being present. Usually [REDACTED] didn't want to go in and see the social worker because [REDACTED] wanted to go outside and play.

Leaving Mossbank Children's Home

15. [REDACTED] and I had been out for a walk with other children from Mossbank. When we returned, we asked where [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were. We were told they had gone. We never knew that they were going away. Apparently, the social workers had come and taken them to Nazareth House in Kilmarnock. That meant nothing to us.
16. [REDACTED] and I were told to pack our stuff as we were leaving too. [REDACTED] and I thought we were going to Kilmarnock. We packed our trousers, shorts and shirts. Either Mrs Currie or Mrs Bell, the social workers were there. The social worker never said much. I don't think anyone explained where we were going to. The taxi came and took us to Gryffe. [REDACTED] and I felt lost. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had gone [REDACTED].

Gryffe Children's Home, Bridge of Weir

17. I went to Gryffe in 1970 or 1971 when I was eleven or twelve years old. I don't remember the journey to Gryffe, just leaving Mossbank and arriving at Gryffe. When [REDACTED] and I arrived at Gryffe, it was a big shock to us. Gryffe was a massive, horrible, white building, standing alone in its own grounds. It housed thirty to forty boys who were aged between three and fifteen years old.
18. The building had two floors, the ground floor and the first floor. The dormitories were on the first floor.
19. Mr ^{MKS}[REDACTED] was ^{SNR}[REDACTED] with his wife, who we called "Matron". Mr and Mrs ^{MKS-LYQ}[REDACTED] lived in apartments in Gryffe. They had an older daughter called [REDACTED] who was married. You only saw Mr ^{MKS}[REDACTED] about once a week and Mrs ^{LYQ}[REDACTED] a couple of times a year. Mr ^{MKS}[REDACTED]'s office was at the front of the house and the children were never allowed around that side of Gryffe. The only time I went in the front door was the first time that we arrived at Gryffe.

20. Once you were inside the grounds of Gryffe, you weren't allowed outside. You couldn't walk down to Bridge of Weir. The treatment in Gryffe was more like being in a borstal. Some boys were there because they had no family, others because they had shoplifted.

Staff at Gryffe Children's Home

21. There were around twelve members of staff. In the summer, trainees came in to work at Gryffe. I don't think the staff were trained to look after kids. They were all local men. The staff seemed to be at Gryffe constantly. I think they maybe had every second weekend off.
22. Mr MWN had a [REDACTED]. He lived in Kilmacolm and was in the Scout movement. His nickname was 'MWN'. Mr MWN would beat the children in Gryffe.
23. There was also Mr and Mrs MWD-SPO. Mr MWD's wife, Nurse [REDACTED], was a night nurse. She was really nice to all of the boys. Mr MWD was in his forties. His nickname was 'MWD'. He and his wife lived in [REDACTED], Bridge of Weir. They had two children who came to the home to play football in the summer.
24. There was sometimes a smell of alcohol from Mr REE. He was about thirty or forty years old. Mr MWD and Mr REE beat the children. Mr MWD and Mr REE sexually abused me.
25. Mr MWM was really good. His wife was one of the nurses. Mr Beattie, I think he came for the summer. Everyone liked Mr Beattie. He didn't hit you and he was good.

Routine at Gryffe Children's Home

First day

26. [REDACTED] and I met Mr ^{MKS}[REDACTED], who was ^{SNR}[REDACTED], and the female staff, who we called "Nurse". Our stuff was taken away. We were given a uniform of a tracksuit and khaki shorts. We were taken into the recreation room. It had wooden benches around the side and a wooden floor. There seemed to be so many people.
27. The staff showed [REDACTED] and I to our dormitory. We were shown a locker and given a locker number for our shoes. Then [REDACTED] and I were taken back down to the recreation room. Soon after we arrived we saw a boy being beaten up by Mr ^{MWN}[REDACTED]. Mr ^{MWN}[REDACTED] grabbed a boy, who was younger than [REDACTED] and I, by the hair and pulled him. That night, we went to bed in the dorm and some people tried to speak to us.

Mornings and bedtime

28. There were six or seven dormitories with about eight children in each one. [REDACTED] and I were in the same dormitory, which was upstairs. The younger children slept downstairs. At around 7:00 am, a member of staff would put the light on and shout for us to get up.
29. The younger children went to bed at 7:30 pm or 8:00 pm and we went at 9:00 pm. We were allowed to keep the lights on for half an hour. The male staff member who was to be on duty overnight would put the lights out. One of the children had to say a prayer, thanking Mr ^{MKS}[REDACTED], Matron and the staff for looking after us. We all had to do that. The staff member would point to the child who was to say the prayer that night.
30. There was no specific member of staff looking after our dormitory, the staff moved around from dorm to dorm. There was a room, down from the dorm, where the staff member on late shift slept.

31. If any children were talking in the dorms, the staff would shout. You could hear the staff going into the dorms and hitting children.

Mealtimes / Food

32. There were different dining rooms for children of different ages. The children who were three to four years old were in one room and the older ones in another. There were eight or nine tables and eight or nine of us at a table. A female member of staff served up the food and a male member of staff was in the dining-room too. Breakfast was at 7:00 am. It was porridge, tea or cocoa and at the weekend there was cereal. I ate the food because I was hungry.
33. After school, we got back to Gryffe and changed out of our school uniform. We would play outside for an hour before dinner. Dinner was at about 6:00 pm and would be things like potatoes and mince.

Washing / bathing

34. On the second floor, there was one bathroom. There were baths and sinks. At night time before bed, we had to shower on the lower ground floor. The showers were communal, with maybe around seven showers. A male member of staff would stand and make sure everybody washed.
35. You were called forward, six at a time, to have a shower. Everyone rushed to get in and get out. If the boys carried on in the shower, they would get a beating from the male members of staff.

Chores

36. There were nights where we had to clean the whole place. We had to clean the dining room and set it up for meals. We helped with washing the dishes. We cleaned up in the garden. The male members of staff would tell you what you had to do.

37. I took on the job of going for the morning papers. I'd be wakened up at 6:00 am. I walked to the other end of the village, picked up the morning papers and took them back to Gryffe. The man in the paper shop knew I was from Gryffe. He would tell me to take a comic or something else for myself.

School

38. I went to St Fillan's Primary School in Houston when I first went to Gryffe. I was there for about a year and then I went to St Brendan's High School in Linwood. We got the school bus from Bridge of Weir to Linwood. It was about five miles away. Twelve of us went to St Brendan's and the majority of boys went to Linwood High School.
39. I hated school. It was a nightmare because of where we came from. We were bullied from the minute we got on the school bus because we came from Gryffe. Some of the boys at school wore their own clothes, we had to wear school uniform. We also got free school meals. The boys from Gryffe all sat together at lunch. The other children picked on us, saying things like we'd never seen food or we didn't have knives and forks.
40. It got to the point that I never went in for lunch. I would walk into Linwood and if I had some pocket money left, I'd buy some sweets. Once or twice I didn't go into school. I just went walking. I knew, when I went back, the staff at Gryffe would know I hadn't been at school and I would get a beating. I didn't tell anyone about the bullying. I sat at the back of the class and didn't say anything.
41. I became friends with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at school. [REDACTED]'s parents ran the [REDACTED] Club. [REDACTED] sometimes went up there for his lunch, I would go with him and get something to eat. When school finished for the summer, you didn't see any of your friends from school until you started back for the next school year.

42. I can't remember learning things at school or sitting exams. I didn't want to go on the school bus because of the bullying that went on. When school finished, sometimes I wouldn't get the bus but would walk the four miles back to Gryffe instead.
43. [REDACTED] was in the year below me. He had his own friends at school. [REDACTED] was a bit of a tearaway. [REDACTED] was caught smoking. I would tell him not to be friends with certain people.

Leisure Time

44. I had friends at Gryffe. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were two of them. Eventually they left Gryffe. We played outside in the grounds. We might build a den or play football. In the summer the staff might organise a treasure hunt in the grounds. There was a big garden where fruit and vegetables were grown. We would be told we were going in to pick fruit. There was a TV which was put on sometimes.
45. We got pocket money every Saturday. An ice-cream van came up on a Saturday and you could spend some of it there. You could earn extra pocket money by washing the staff's cars.
46. The boys from Quarriers Children's home used to come to Gryffe to play football. We were only three miles down the road from Quarriers. The boys in Gryffe thought the Quarriers boys were snobby. The Quarriers boys had better things than us. When they came to play football, some of the Gryffe boys would go into the changing rooms and steal their stuff.

Trips / Holidays

47. Every summer, we went for two weeks to a big house at Garliston near Newton Stewart. That was the only time that we were out of Gryffe in the summer. It was just the same, you had your chores to do but it was nice. The food was nicer at Garliston. We got cakes in the afternoon which we never did at Gryffe. We stayed in dorms. We were given new tracksuits and khakis. Only the male members of staff came with us.

an hour. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

54. My dad visited [REDACTED] at Gryffe but not very often. My dad took [REDACTED] to see [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] a few times. My mum visited now and again. She would bring sweets and things. [REDACTED] came with my mum. They would give [REDACTED] money. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] to hide the money because he knew that it would be taken away from [REDACTED].
55. My social worker, Miss Bell, visited. I would sit in the room with her. No-one from Gryffe was in the room. Looking back, I think she was a young girl. My social worker would say the house and grounds were nice. She wouldn't ask me what was happening, if there was abuse or discipline. Everything was rosy to her. I think Miss Bell was in awe of the big house and grounds. Miss Bell would tell me how [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were doing. She would say they were doing well and were liking [REDACTED]. That was totally the opposite of what was happening.
56. When boys knew their social worker was coming to Gryffe, a lot of them would disappear into the woods so that they didn't have to speak to them.

Healthcare

57. A doctor came up if anyone was ill. Every Friday the small boys were given milk of magnesia and the older boys were given syrup of figs. I don't remember seeing a dentist.

Religious Instruction

58. We had to go to chapel on a Sunday at Houston. Six boys walked to the chapel from Gryffe. Mr [REDACTED] and wife lived in Houston and would tell us to come down to their house for some juice and a biscuit after mass. We had religious instruction in school. The children would say an evening prayer at night, to be thankful for being at Gryffe.

Bed Wetting

59. I started to wet the bed at Gryffe. I hadn't done that at all before I went to Gryffe. It started quite soon after we went there and continued for quite a while. Gryffe was such a big house, the toilet was further down the corridor. Maybe I was too scared to get up.
60. A female staff member walked around at night. If a child wet the bed, she would waken them at certain times throughout the night so that they could go to the toilet. Other boys in my dorm wet the bed. I think [REDACTED] did once or twice. If you had wet the bed when the night nurse came round, she would run a bath for you, get you dry pyjamas and change the bed. The night nurse was supposed to keep of record of everything that went on at night, in a book. You were hoping that she wouldn't write down that you'd wet the bed because when the day staff came in, you would get a punishment for it.
61. It was degrading. Rather than keep it amongst the staff, the male member of staff on duty in the morning would tell you to strip your bed and turn your mattress up. Everybody could see what had happened. As you walked past the other dorms, you could see mattresses turned up in them too. If you had wet the bed, the sheets were taken away and you were given new pyjamas. The other children would call you "pee the bed" and other such names.

Discipline

62. Sometimes you would be hit for wetting the bed. You could be slapped in the face. There were other punishments for wetting the bed or answering back to staff. Money was docked from your pocket money or you would be given extra chores to do. You might have to set up the tables for dinner. After dinner, it was decided who was washing the dishes so you might have to go into the kitchen and do the dishwashing. Everyone knew what was going on.

63. A couple of boys ran away from Gryffe. They were given a beating when they came back and had no pocket money for a couple of weeks.
64. The discipline was vicious. You wouldn't get away with it today.

Abuse at Gryffe Children's Home

65. I wasn't at Gryffe for long, around six months, when the abuse by Mr MWD started. I was sleeping in bed and the lights were out. I woke up and I could feel someone breathing. Mr MWD was sitting on the bed. His hands were under the blankets, in my pyjamas. This happened a lot. At night-time, I would think, I hope Mr MWD's not on duty.
66. I walked home from school because I knew, if I got in after everyone else, I could try to sneak up to my dorm and change. If Mr MWD saw me coming in, he would come upstairs after me. He watched me changing and then he would touch me sexually. This happened regularly. Everyone else would be downstairs. Mr MWD told me that, if I said anything about what he was doing, [REDACTED] would get into trouble.
67. The same thing happened in Garliston when we were on holiday. Mr MWD would tell you to go to a room for something. He would appear in the room and take your shorts down. Mr MWD would masturbate you, make you do oral on him and touch him.
68. I think the abuse is one reason why I wet the bed. I was scared to get up if Mr MWD was around.
69. Sometimes Mr MWD could be really nice to everybody. The next time he would just turn. Mr MWD would kick and punch the boys. He would throw things a lot. It was for stupid things.

70. Mr REE abused me. That was when I could smell alcohol from him. When he was staying overnight in the staff room, Mr REE would call you to go his room. He would make up some excuse to get you into the room. When you were in the room, Mr REE made you masturbate him and put his penis in your mouth. He told me not to say anything to anyone or [REDACTED] would be punished. [REDACTED] asked me once what I was doing in the room but I said, "Nothing" and brushed it aside.
71. The abuse would happen a lot in the summer. You were not at school and were in the grounds all the time. If you were out in the woods and the staff were out, abuse would happen there too. I tried to avoid the places where Mr MWD and Mr REE were but they would always find me. The abuse went on until I left Gryffe in 1975 when I was sixteen years old.
72. Mr MWN kicked children with his [REDACTED] and pulled them by the hair. He did this to me quite a lot. It could happen because you didn't move quickly enough or if your cleaning of the building wasn't up to scratch. It was painful. Mr MWN would hold you and kick you. He would kick children's legs. If Mr MWN had a child down on the floor, he would kick them. I saw Mr MWN abuse children every day.
73. Mr MWN would call the children names. He said to children that they were nobody and that was why they were at Gryffe. Mr MWN said nobody wanted to know us.
74. If you did something that Mr MKS thought was bad, you were taken to the front of the house into his study. Mr MKS gave you "six of the best" with a leather belt, on your hands. It happened to me a couple of times because I spoke back to one of the staff.
75. I was hit by a member of staff once in the showers. There were a few times I had my hair pulled after my shower because I'd done something. It wasn't just pulling, the member of staff was really going for it. Mr MWN did that quite a lot to children. The staff also punched the boys. If boys didn't clean their shoes properly, the shoes would be thrown at them.

76. Sometimes other staff, the nurses, would be present when boys were beaten. None of the nurses intervened or said anything.

Abuse of others at Gryffe Children's Home

77. I wasn't aware at the time, of any other children being abused by Mr MWD.
78. There was a boy, ██████████, in Gryffe who used to go away to Glasgow with Mr REE ██████████ every few weekends. ██████████ would be out all day and came back with sweets and things. ██████████ never said what he'd done in Glasgow or what had happened there.

Peer Abuse

79. Some families had been at Gryffe for a long time. They thought they ruled the roost. There was quite a bit of bullying from those families. The ██████████ family had four boys from 8 years old to 14 years old. The ██████████ were horrible. If you got on the wrong side of them, they would take your pocket money. The ██████████ got boys to go and steal for them. Sometimes they were caught out and given a beating by Mr MWN ██████████. When the oldest ██████████ left Gryffe, the whole dynamics changed. The other children started bullying the ██████████.

Leaving Gryffe Children's Home

80. When you turned sixteen at Gryffe, you couldn't stay on at school to study and get qualifications. You had to leave Gryffe. You were sent to a half-way house in a tenement off ██████████, in Glasgow. Four of us from Gryffe went to live in the half-way house. We had been friends at Gryffe. We weren't prepared for leaving. It just happened. We didn't have a clue about anything. There were no follow-up visits from the social work department.

Life after being in care

81. At the half-way house, the four of us boys slept in one room. We could only use our bedroom in the house. We were put out during the day. There were other, older residents, who were not from care. The woman in charge told us that breakfast was at 7:00 am, our tea was at 5:00 pm and we had better be in for it. The woman said there was to be no carry on. She said we had to look for work. We had no idea how to go about getting a job. We had no social skills. We preferred to stay in the shadows. We were just left to it.
82. Two of us went around asking for work. We went into a paper shop in Kelvingrove and asked for a job. We told the shopkeeper we had just come out of a children's home. We were told to go away. Eventually two of us did get a job in a shop. We were given all the tasks the others didn't want to do, like cleaning. We did that for a month but we were treated like skivvies. I stayed at the half-way house for four or five months. [REDACTED] knew I was struggling in the house. He came there with my mum and I went to stay with her in Greenock for a month before I joined the Royal Air Force.
83. I had to try to get used to that life, with my mum. [REDACTED] was still in Gryffe. He was fourteen years old. I went back to Gryffe to see him in 1975 and on my leave from the Air Force. There were girls at Gryffe by then and some new staff.
84. [REDACTED] was in the Air Force. Before I left Gryffe, he had said I should think about joining. I filled out the forms before I left Gryffe and went to the Careers Office. I did a test and I was accepted.
85. I joined the Royal Air Force on 25th November 1975. I was sixteen and a half years old. I did my basic training at RAF Swinderby in Lincoln. There were other lads going there on the train. I was shy and I never spoke to anybody on the train. I enjoyed the training.

86. After basic training, you could apply to go to one of three bases. ██████ told me a few bases near him, in the south of England, and I applied for those. I got sent to RAF Buchan, outside Peterhead in Scotland. It was the furthest away from ██████.
87. I did communications, working as a telephonist and tele-printer, in the Air Force. It was good fun. There was a good bunch of lads. I had other postings at RAF Machrihanish and RAF Catterick. I stayed in the Air Force for eight years. I kept in touch with ██████, ██████ and ██████ by writing them letters and sending them money.
88. I came out of the Air Force when I was 24 years old. I wanted to see what life was like outside of the Air Force. I went back to stay at my mums. I felt lost. My life had been disciplined and structured. Luckily, someone in the Air Force knew a lady who worked at Gleneagles Hotel. I sent a letter to this lady and went for a trial on the switchboard at Gleneagles. I stayed there for two years. Again, it was like Gryffe and the Air Force. You stayed in staff accommodation. I learned to do the reception and started work on the reception at Gleneagles.
89. When I was 26 years old, I moved to Glasgow to work reception at the Hospitality Inn and then at the Excelsior Hotel at Glasgow Airport. Eventually I moved to London to get experience of working in a London hotel. I worked in a small hotel in Mayfair. I became Assistant Front of House Manager. Again, it was a live-in post. I worked in the hospitality sector for eight years.
90. I then went to work for the Royal family, from 1990 to 1999. I was a Royal Telephonist. Any calls that came through the Royal family's private line for the Queen and other senior Royals came through us. We announced the calls to them. We travelled with the Royal family to Balmoral, Windsor and Sandringham. The Royal family got to know you. Princess Diana would pop into the switchboard room unannounced, bringing biscuits. The Prince of Wales was very good too; he referred to me as "The Voice of the Royals". It was really interesting.
91. I took my mum to the Queen's Dance at Christmas. Prince Edward's valet and the Queen's dresser took my mum out for the day to Harrods and Rigby and Peller to get

her an outfit for the dance. At the dance, the Prince of Wales spoke to my mum. The Prince of Wales touched me on the shoulder and said that he didn't know what he would do without me. My mum was over the moon.

92. The Prince's friend, Tom Shebeare was running the Prince's Trust. Tom asked me to go and set up the reception at the Prince's Trust headquarters at Regent's Park. Tom had asked me the previous year and I had turned him down. I decided this time that I would give it a try. I set up the reception and stayed for two or three years. One of the directors was looking for a Personal Assistant and I was asked if I would like the job. I took on that role, as PA to the Director of Fundraising at Battersea Dogs Home. I'm now an Executive Assistant at Kantar, looking after the Finance Manager for the United Kingdom and Ireland and the Chief Operating Officer. I've been with Kantar for eleven years.

Impact

93. When [REDACTED] and I talk about Mossbank Children's Home now, we say it was the best place we were in. It's a shame we didn't stay there longer. Mossbank was clean, we were looked after and we had three square meals each day. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The care was very good. The worst thing was leaving Mossbank.
94. I didn't realise at the time, in Gryffe, that [REDACTED] had seen something and knew that I was being abused. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] about it. [REDACTED] didn't speak to me about it, I think because of the abuse he had gone through in St Ninians in Fife. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s partner told me that [REDACTED] had given a statement to the police. [REDACTED] kept his abuse a secret as well. [REDACTED] passed away just before the court case about abuse at St Ninians and was unable to give evidence.
95. I didn't speak to anyone about the abuse until thirteen years ago, when my mum passed away. I was upset. My friend, Fraser, said to me that I could talk to him because he knew something had happened to me. My mum had said something to

him. My mum got on with Fraser, they used to talk. Fraser was the first person I spoke to about it. Fraser suggested going to the police but I didn't want to drag it up. I also felt sorry for Mr MWD's wife. She was really good to us. I thought, if I go to the police, what's going to happen to his wife? I can talk to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], about my experiences now. At the time, they never knew anything.

96. When I was at Gryffe, I thought the abuse was only happening to me. I thought it happened to me because I was really shy and didn't say anything. As time went on, I could feel it eating away at me. I blamed myself for the abuse. The abuse made me feel dirty and alone.
97. I had nightmares in Gryffe. If a nurse came into the room and touched me, I would scream even more. You were just told to go back to sleep. I still have nightmares. If someone comes into the room, or gets up from bed, when I am asleep, I wake up and start screaming. I can wake myself up by shouting.
98. At school, we were looked down upon. Everyone knew we were from the home. We were bullied. Even now, I walk long distances rather than get on public transport. Walking helps me cope with my past trauma and clears my mind. I left school with no qualifications. We didn't have the opportunity to stay on at school and do exams. In the Air Force, I was encouraged to do O-Levels, which I did. Fraser encouraged me to do a Diploma in Public Health and Hygiene when I was in Glasgow. I did that at night classes. I have done very well in my career. I know I could have achieved more if I had had the chance of a basic education. Instead, I was ignored and removed from education.
99. We were jealous of the boys at Quarriers because they seemed to be doing everything. The boys who went to Linwood Secondary School knew some of the Quarriers boys. The Quarriers boys would tell them where Quarriers were going and what they were doing. The treatment in Gryffe was more like being in a borstal. There were boys in Gryffe for everything, shoplifting. There was a boy who had been in there from the age of two. He used to come back and visit. There was a story later that the boy killed himself because he couldn't cope.

100. In the half-way house in Glasgow, I felt lost and abandoned. In Gryffe, we had everything done for us. We had rules. We hadn't been prepared for life outside of Gryffe. All four of us in the half-way house were really shy. We couldn't speak to people. We were actually wishing we were back in Gryffe. One of the boys was a bit mixed up. He used to visit his gran. He struggled. I heard the boy couldn't cope and beat his gran up. He ended up in prison. I'm sure a few of the boys from Gryffe were like that.
101. I found life in the Air Force easier than most. I was used to the discipline. I could make my bed and polish shoes. Other guys would ask me to do their shoes and they would do something else for me. It was almost like being back at Gryffe. Doing hotel reception work, you are talking to people and I enjoyed that. I did hotel work for eight years. Away from work, I was still shy. At work, I can't do team things or role play, I can feel my hands sweat.
102. I met Fraser when I was 25 years old, in Glasgow. Fraser and I have known each other for thirty years. When we met, I didn't want to go into restaurants to eat. Even now, I won't go into a restaurant by myself. I still think people are looking at me. I think that's a throwback to the bullying at school. Fraser would tell me not to be stupid. Fraser didn't know anything about what had happened to me at that time.
103. If I was at Fraser's and he had people round for dinner, I would feel really shy. I would spend ages in the toilet. I would have sweats. I find it hard to trust people. I'm very secretive. I go through periods where I'm not as confident as I should be, so I hold back and don't get involved. I don't want to feel that everyone is looking at me, I'd rather sit in the background. If Fraser takes a photo of me, he wouldn't send it to anyone without asking me first. I protect my privacy.
104. I have always been a loner. As a young adult, I viewed others as dangerous and not to be trusted. I was very sensitive as to how I was treated by people. I still have difficulty dealing with authority and other officialdom. I was never taught how to fill in forms or how to communicate.

105. My experiences at Gryffe have affected my relationships. I find it difficult to give and receive affection. I find intimacy difficult. I anticipated rejection by completely withdrawing or becoming aggressive. If someone gets close to me and starts to ask me questions, I find that difficult. I have tried to keep my past secret. I hated people talking to me and asking me things. I didn't want people to ask me about my up-bringing. I made up stories about where I was brought up. I didn't want to talk about it. I'm embarrassed and ashamed of my up-bringing. I told Fraser [REDACTED] had lived with [REDACTED] aunt. In some respects, I feel I've lived a double life. I've now started to tell people about my background. I've told my boss, Kelly Smith, and one of the girls at work, Sarah Fernandes. I've told my boss about my coming forward to the Inquiry. She's all for me doing it.
106. I have a constant feeling of being "in limbo". Friends have settled down, got a house and continued with their lives. My life seems to have been a constant struggle, emotionally and in other ways. I have great difficulty navigating my way through life. I find it difficult to settle and be at peace with myself, especially in setting up a home of my own.
107. I have always had feelings of low self-esteem, of feeling bad or unworthy. These feelings are hard to come to terms with. I have had panic attacks, severe anxiety and flashbacks to the episodes of abuse. I feel anger and fear. I feel sad that I didn't have the same, normal childhood experiences that others have.
108. As a young adult, I developed serious stomach ulcers. I was hospitalised and still have minor problems controlled by medication. I think the ulcers were partly due to the constant worry about anyone finding out about my abuse.
109. My mother passed away thirteen years ago. I had a very loving relationship with my mother. I understood the difficulties of her being in such an [REDACTED] with my father. My father died in 1983. I had little contact with him after he placed [REDACTED] in care. I don't hold any ill feelings for my dad, nor do I blame him for anything. He was a young man looking after [REDACTED], unemployed, and struggling on a daily

basis with his alcoholism and increasingly difficult circumstances. I honestly believe that he was simply unable to cope with it all and made the right decision to have [REDACTED] cared for by others.

110. I am in touch with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is in London and [REDACTED] is in Greenock. We speak to each other every couple of days and I meet [REDACTED] for coffee in town. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] passed away within six months of each other, three years ago.
111. [REDACTED] died two weeks after his 18th birthday. He was knocked down and killed outright. He'd not long left care. I felt that [REDACTED] was the only one who knew what had happened to me at Gryffe. When [REDACTED] died, I felt safe that it was my secret now and no-one would ever know. [REDACTED] had taken it to the grave. I had terrible feelings of guilt about that.
112. I have thought a lot about Gryffe. I still think about it, there's not a week goes by when I don't think about it. The other morning I was walking near where I live and I thought, God, this is like walking down the drive at Gryffe. Now when I think about it, I think about the good times. I can blot out the other parts.
113. In the end of the day, I considered Gryffe my home. I've been back a few times. It's now private flats. It wasn't all bad. There was a lot of good. I don't know where [REDACTED] would have ended up if [REDACTED] hadn't gone into care.

Support/Counselling

114. I was put in touch with ^{GMX}[REDACTED], a clinical psychologist in Edinburgh who does work for the Scottish Government. I went to see him last year. He's doing a report about me. I might need a report for redress from the Scottish Government.
115. There is a local trauma specialist who is happy to see me when I'm ready.

Involvement with Survivor Groups

116. I've moved on in the last two or three years by getting involved with the In Care Survivors Group and coming forward to the Inquiry. I can talk about my experiences by talking as if they happened to someone else. I find it easier to cope with my experiences now. When you listen to other people, you think, mine wasn't as bad as that. I think I've come through it better than some. I can put on a front.
117. I am on the Interaction Action Plan Review Group run by the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland, CELCIS, and I am part of the National Confidential Forum. The Review Group are working on a redress system for in care survivors. We have done an online consultation about what survivors want from the government, by way of taking responsibility for what has happened. At the Forum, you announce yourself by saying that you're a survivor. I hate saying that but everyone seems to say it.

Lessons to be Learned

118. Staff should be well-trained, so that they can see signs of anyone being abused.

Other information

119. There was a report done into abuse at Gryffe in the sixties but the abuse was allowed to continue without anything being done about it. I think Glasgow Corporation has got a lot to answer for.

120. I would like everything to come out into the open, so I don't have to hang onto it anymore.

121. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... 

Dated..... *8/8/2018*